

In the Claims:

Please replace all prior listing of claims with the following:

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) ~~The method according to Claim 1A~~ a method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:

 gauging the size of the left ventricle;

 determining the amount by which the left ventricle should be

 reduced from the gauging of its size; and

 reducing the dimension of the left ventricle in accordance with the

 determined amount, wherein gauging the size of the left ventricle comprises
 encircling the heart closely with an adjustable length band, and determining
 the size of the ventricle with reference to the length of the band.
3. (currently amended) ~~The method according to Claim 1A~~ a method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:

 gauging the size of the left ventricle;

 determining the amount by which the left ventricle should be

 reduced from the gauging of its size; and

 reducing the dimension of the left ventricle in accordance with the

 determined amount, wherein gauging the size of the left ventricle comprises
 inserting an expansible member into the left ventricle, and expanding the
 expansible member.

4. (original) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the expansible member is a balloon, and expanding the balloon is accomplished by the introduction of fluid into an interior of the balloon.
5. (original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein gauging the size of the left ventricle further comprises measuring the volume of fluid introduced into the interior of the balloon
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (original) A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:
 - introducing an expansible member into the left ventricle of a patient's heart, the expansible member being at least partially collapsed;
 - expanding the expansible member within the left ventricle of a patient's heart; and
 - reducing the volume of the left ventricle by an amount based upon the expanded volume of the expansible member.
11. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the amount of volume reduction of the patient's left ventricle is determined by the expanded volume of the expansible member compared to a desired volume of the left ventricle.

12. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein expanding the expansible member comprises the introduction of fluid into the interior of the expansible member.
13. (original) The method according to Claim 10, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening in the left ventricular wall.
14. (original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.
15. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 13, wherein creating an opening ~~the~~ in the left ventricular wall comprises creating a perforation in the left ventricle extending to the apex of the heart.
16. (original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.
17. (original) A method of reshaping a patient's heart comprising:
 - encircling the heart closely with an adjustable length band;
 - determining the size of the left ventricle with reference to the length of the band; and
 - reducing the volume of the left ventricle by an amount based upon the determined size of the left ventricle.

18. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 17~~13~~, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle comprises creating an opening ~~the~~ in the left ventricular wall.
19. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 17~~13~~, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises removing a portion of the myocardial tissue.
20. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 17~~13~~, wherein creating an opening ~~the~~ in the left ventricular wall comprises creating a perforation in the left ventricle extending to the apex of the heart.
21. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 17~~13~~, wherein reducing the dimension of the left ventricle further comprises hemostatically closing the left ventricle.